

*S1  
cond.*

then inserting through the ring an end of the upper section that is associated with the juncture point and is opposite to the proximate end, and then sliding the ring towards the mouthpiece, the ring thereby becoming lodged; and

then reconnecting the lower and upper sections at the juncture point.

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**Remarks**

Pending claims 7, 9 and 10 have been canceled.

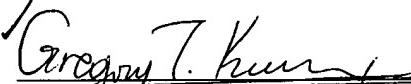
New claim 11 has been added.

A similarly worded claim has been rejected in the past, citing lack of enablement. To the extent the rejection is repeated, the rejection is respectfully traversed. The steps of the method of this claim are recited in the specification.

The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned if any questions arise concerning the above-mentioned application.

Respectfully submitted,

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